

Reply to Final Office Action mailed on March 24, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application, with claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 15 and 18 being the independent claims. Independent claim 18 is sought to be amended to include a feature already included in independent claims 1, 6, 9, 12 and 15, namely, a wildcard identifier that is substituted with rules to create a set of artificial combinations of unique sounds for a predefined category of words in the grammar. Entry and consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. No new matter is believed to have been introduced by this amendment.

Applicants have made the above amendment to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all outstanding rejections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0143529 (hereinafter referred to as "Schmid"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Applicants stated in the response to the non-final office action that independent claims 1, 6, 9, 12 and 15 generally include a wildcard identifier that is substituted with rules to create a set of artificial combinations of unique sounds for a predefined category of words in the grammar. Amendment independent claim 18 now also includes the wildcard identifier as was

**Appln. Serial No. 09/752,994
Attorney's Docket No. 42390P10364
Reply to Final Office Action mailed on March 24, 2005**

previously claimed in independent claims 1, 6, 9, 12 and 15. Applicants respectfully assert that Schmid does not teach or suggest using a wildcard identifier as claimed.

The Examiner states that Applicants' arguments in response to the non-final office action are not persuasive because Schmid teaches using a set of selected phrases, typically to limit valid recognition hypothesis to the phrases that are found in a context-free grammar (Column 1, paragraph 0003). Applicants respectfully assert that nothing in the cited text of Schmid teaches or suggests substituting a wildcard identifier with rules to create a set of artificial combinations of unique sounds for a predefined category of words in the grammar as claimed. The cited text in Schmid simply discloses using a set of selected phrases to limit valid recognition hypothesis to the phrases that are found in a context-free grammar. In addition, the wildcard transition/tag of Schmid cited by the Examiner indicates to the speech recognition engine that it should ignore words occurring between phrases preceding the wildcard transition/tag and phrases coming after the wildcard transition/tag. Applicants respectfully assert that the wildcard transition/tag of Schmid does not teach or suggest substituting a wildcard identifier with rules as claimed. For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 15 and 18 and their respective dependent claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 19-21 are distinguishable from Schmid. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection to these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

**Appln. Serial No. 09/752,994
Attorney's Docket No. 42390P10364
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INVITATION FOR A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned, Molly A. McCall, at (703) 633-3311 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

**Appln. Serial No. 09/752,994
Attorney's Docket No. 42390P10364**

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed accommodated or rendered moot. Thus, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and as such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Intel Corporation

Dated: 5-24-05

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P10364 Reply to Final OA

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on:

5-24-05
L... L... L...
Katherine Jennings
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence
Katherine C. Jennings 6-24-05
Signature Date